

(The remarks of Mr. BAUCUS pertaining to the introduction of this legislation are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. the Senator from Missouri.

SOUTHWEST MISSOURI STATE LADY BEARS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, while we in the Senate are working hard exploring the mysteries of campaign finance reform, many Americans are enjoying the annual tradition known as "March Madness." In Missouri, we are particularly fixated on "the March to the Arch" where St. Louis is hosting the final four of the Women's NCAA basketball tournament. In the final four are a couple of teams from somewhere in Indiana and Connecticut but in Missouri, we will be cheering for our Southwest Missouri State University Lady Bears. They started out as a low seed, but they are two upset wins away from a national championship. The Lady Bears are coached by Cheryl Burnett who, in her 14 years at SW Missouri, has posted a 274-117 record winning 70 percent of her games.

In recent years, the residents of my home State of Missouri have been privileged to witness many great sports legends, from George Brett and Derrick Thomas in Kansas City to Mark McGuire and Kurt Warner in St. Louis to Springfield's own Payne Stewart. Today I recognize the achievements of the Southwest Missouri State University basketball team and, Jackie Stiles—our newest sports legend.

On March 1 of this year, in front of a sell-out, standing-room-only crowd, Jackie broke the record for most career points scored by a women's basketball player in NCAA Division I, a record that has stood since 1989.

Ms. Stiles is the Nation's leading scorer at 30.7 points per game and the career total is a whopping 3,253 points. Monday night, in Spokane, Washington, Southwest Missouri State rolled over the home team Washington 104 to 87. Jackie Stiles left the game to a standing ovation from 11,000 fans rooting for the opposing team.

Fans in her hometown of Claflin, KS, enjoyed watching her compete in basketball, track, and tennis at the high school level. They watched as she scored more points in the history of Kansas prep sports than any high school basketball player—boys or girls. Her decision to play NCAA Division I basketball at SMS was made after all of the top women's college basketball programs tried to recruit her. Her choice has been applauded time after time over the last 4 years as fans pack into Hammons Student Center to cheer on the Lady Bears team.

Jackie Stiles has led Division I teams in average points per game the past 2 years and was nominated for the prestigious ESPY award, the Naismith Award, and was recently named to both

the Associated Press and the Sports Illustrated Women's All-American First Team. The awards she has earned throughout her career are too numerous to list. Beyond the many honors she has earned we should recognize her for something more important than records and awards. Jackie Stiles has become a role model to the many young people who dream of the kind of achievements she has accomplished. The best thing about this is that she is showing them the way to achieve their goals. First, by being a role model and setting a fine example for young people everywhere. In the words of SMS Lady Bear's head coach Cheryl Burnett, "She really is the kind of role model that an athlete should be . . . Jackie is a tremendous ambassador for women's basketball and athletics in general."

Whether she is breaking records on the court or reading to elementary students, Jackie embodies a spirit of excellence. Second, Jackie Stiles has reached the pinnacle of women's college basketball by combining her talent with more hard work than most can comprehend. She is the product of a small mid-western town and reflects the values you would expect to find in a town of just over 600—hard work, friendliness, dedication, and devotion to family. She has distinguished herself from many sports heroes with her humility which was evident in her recent ESPN interview where she gave credit to the team and the program rather than accepting it for herself. I agree the team deserves a lot of credit, but so does Jackie Stiles.

When Jackie broke her wrist during her sophomore year of high school she did not let it get her down. Instead, she learned to shoot left handed and still averaged 26 points per game. That is also when she began her now-famous 1,000 shots per day practices that kept her in the gym all hours of the day and night. It is that kind of work ethic that builds champions, and that I stand to honor today. She puts her team first and plays unselfishly on the court. When she scored 56 points in a game she gave the credit to her coaches and her teammates, as well as to the enthusiastic fans from Southwest Missouri that have lined up to see her play the last 4 years.

Her team-centered focus on winning games, not personal accolades, sets Jackie Stiles apart. And, finally, it is her focus on being a scholar-athlete, maintaining a high grade point average while dealing with the intense pressures of being in the national spotlight. Thank you, Jackie, for choosing Southwest Missouri State University, and for setting an example for young people everywhere with your hard work and humility. Those are the true things of which champions are made.

I congratulate Coach Burnett, Ms. Stiles, the entire team and University for this great achievement or making it to the Final Four. I plan on attending the game Friday night game in St. Louis to see one of those Indiana teams

dispatched by the Lady Bears. I say to my friends from Indiana, while Indiana may be known for men's basketball, I predict this weekend will make Missouri host to the capital of college women's basketball.

Mr. President, I see no one seeking recognition, so I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORZINE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the hour of morning business be extended until 2:15 and that the half hour for the proponents and opponents of the bill be maintained to follow that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I understand we are in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

THE UPCOMING BUDGET DEBATE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, we are having a little pause in the subject of campaign finance reform, thankfully. We have been at it for some time. Hopefully, we will be through this week soon. It is a very important issue, but I am anxious, as most of us are, to move on to some of the other issues before us. Probably the most important one is that of the budget.

Each session, of course, is important and vital. It is important for us to have a budget. You can argue about the details of the budget, but the fact is that a budget is more than just a piece of paper with our spending plans on it. The budget is what defines where we are going to go over the next 2 years and into the future. It defines, as well, what our priorities are, which is a very important issue. It causes us to look ahead as to where we ought to be doing things that strengthen America, things that we ought to be doing that help put this economy back in place. Hopefully, we will be working on that budget next week.

The President has put forth a budget. Our Budget Committee will come forth